

Thomas Rich – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745

Thomas Rich was the son of Richard Rich. He was born in 1671. Thomas married Mercy Knowles in 1702 and they lived in the southern part of Eastham. They had twelve children. Thomas died in 1753. He probably is buried in an unmarked grave in Eastham Cove Burying Ground or in Orleans Old Cemetery.

This report also includes the few Eastham land records for John Rich who was the brother of Thomas. John was born in 1665. He married Mary Treat who was daughter of Rev. Samuel Treat in 1700. Mary died in 1723 and John then married Hope Sears who was the widow of Richard Sears. John was a prominent man and Deacon of the Church. He lived in the Billingsgate area where he died in 1747. He probably is buried in an unmarked grave in Truro Old North Cemetery.

1701

Granted to Thomas Rich about two acres of upland on the southerly side of the highway that went from Eastham to Harwich. The land was near the Cedar Swamp and near the house of Samuel Knowles. PDF M137, P96, S92.

Granted to Thomas Rich two acres of land on the easterly side of Cedar Swamp. PDF P100.

1710

This record refers to Thomas Rich owning about one acre at Great Meadow at the northern part of the Common. There was some adjustment of the boundary with land of Josiah Cooke. This agreement was with the provision that Rich and his heirs did not molest Josiah Cooke and his heirs in their quiet possession and enjoyment of their parcel of meadow. PDF M82, M83.

1711

Three parcels of land were granted to Thomas Rich. The first parcel was three and one-half acres north of the highway that went from Eastham to Harwich and near the house of Samuel Knowles. The second parcel was about one acre on the northerly side of his house lot. The third parcel was about one and one-half acres on the southerly side of his house lot. PDF T106.

Granted to John Rich (brother of Thomas) about two acres on Griffith's Island next to land of Isaac Baker. Also granted to John Rich about two acres on Griffith's Island next to land of John Young. PDF T97.

1712

Granted to Thomas Rich about four acres near lots of Samuel Knowles and Richard Knowles. Bounds were indicated by stones in the ground. This would have been in the Cedar Swamp area. PDF T106.

Granted to John Rich (brother of Thomas) about four acres on Griffith's Island next to his other land. PDF T97.

1715

Granted to Thomas Rich about twelve acres next to his other land near his dwelling house and orchard and near land of George Shaw. Also the land was near the roadway that went to Chatham. PDF T219.

Granted to Thomas Rich the twelfth wood lot in a large series of wood lot grants. The lot ran north about 300 feet and ran east to the backside sea probably about one mile like the surrounding lots which would be about thirty-six acres. These large wood lots were on the east side of the way to Billingsgate. PDF T266.

Granted to John Rich (brother of Thomas Rich) a wood lot on the westerly side of the way that went to Herring Brook. The dimensions indicate the lot was about twenty acres. PDF T293.

1716

Thomas Rich, Joshua Hopkins and Samuel Knowles purchased from the Town for six shillings a lot probably at least one acre on the northerly side of Rock Harbor Meadow and next to land of Samuel Knowles, Joshua Hopkins and John Paine. PDF T309.

Thomas Rich purchased from the Town for one pound and ten shillings a parcel of land near his dwelling house. The size of the parcel was not given but it must have been at least five acres.

The land owned by Thomas and John Rich described in these records amounts to about 100 acres. The only other Rich found in these records to receive Eastham land grants was their father Richard Rich.